

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 00464 101724Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7187

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00464

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, IS

SUBJECT: FDP DELEGATION'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST

1. NATIONAL FDP SECRETARY GENERAL MARTIN BANGEMANN ACCOMPANIED BY BUNDESTAG MEMBER FRIDERICH WILHEIM HOELSCHER, WOLFGANG RUBIN AND BERLIN FDP CHAIRMAN WOLFGANG LUEDER RECENTLY VISITED ISRAEL AS GUESTS OF THE INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY. THE LONG-STANDING INVITATION HAD BEEN POSTPONED BY THE YOM KIPPUR WAR. BANGEMANN TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON JANUARY 9 THAT HE HAD FOUND THE VISIT VERY USEFUL.

2. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE VISIT HE SAID WAS TO EXPLAIN OPENLY AND FRANKLY TO THE ISRAELIS THAT THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GERMANY AND ISRAEL WAS A THING OF THE PAST. IN BOTH COUNTRIES NEW GENERATIONS WHICH NO
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PAGE 02 BONN 00464 101724Z

LONGER HAD THE SAME EXPERIENCE HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE OVER

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.

3. THE DELEGATION BANGEMANN SAID MET WITH THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER AND LIBERAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AS WELL AS LIBERAL PARTY MEMBERS. IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY IN ISRAEL WERE PREPARED TO RETURN MOST OF THE TERRITORY GAINED SINCE 1967 BACK TO THE ARABS. THE EXCEPTIONS HE MENTIONED WERE JERUSALEM AND PART OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. HE SAID THAT IN CONVERSATIONS IN ISRAEL HE HAD BEEN ASKED ABOUT CDU POLITICIAN SCHOEDER'S CONTACT WITH PLO LEADER ARAFAT. IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION HE SAID THAT ARAFAT WANTED TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS AND THEREFORE WISHED INCREASED CONTACT. INCREASED CONTACTS, HE SAID, WOULD BE GOOD AS IT WOULD ACT AS A MODERATING INFLUENCE UPON ARAFAT AND THE PLO. THE FDP HOPES, HE COMMENTED, TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE OF 1975 POSSIBLY VISITING EGYPT, SYRIA, IRAN AND JORDAN. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE HE SAID THEY WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH ARAFAT DURING THIS VISIT.

4. COMMENT: BANGEMANN'S STATEMENTS ON THE FRG-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP SOUND A BIT BALD AS THEY STAND IN PARA 2. HIS POINT, WHICH IS NOT A NEW ONE, IS NOT THAT GERMANS HAVE FORGOTTEN THEIR HISTORY BUT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP HAS TO BE A NORMAL ONE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESENT-DAY POLICY DECISIONS IN BONN; NOT THAT BANGEMANN OR THE FDP FAVOR RADICAL RE-ORIENTATION OF FRG POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL, BUT THAT FRG INTERESTS CALL FOR A CERTAIN POLICY BALANCE IN THE AREA.

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